

National Resource Centers and
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

CANADA

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Abstracts
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NORTHEAST NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON CANADA

A Consortium of the University of Maine (ME), the University of Vermont (VT), and the State University of New York at Plattsburgh (SUNY/P).

The Northeast Consortium was formed in 1979 to join the Canadian Studies Centers at ME and VT (DOE Title VI Center on Canada since 1976) and expanded to include SUNY/P in 1983. Since then, the Consortium has been a front-ranked Title VI National Center on Canada. According to the evaluation of the Consortium conducted by Prof. George Sulzner (Political Science, UMass Amherst), in Spring 1999: "The three programs represent the peak of Canadian Studies activity in the United States. These leading programs, collectively and individually, offer American students, elementary, secondary, university teachers, the business community, and the general public, unique opportunities to reflect on Canada, its regions and provinces, our mutual history and contemporary existence in North America. The [Centers] set the standards for the study of Canada in the United States, which other programs follow."

The Consortium is a national leader in teaching, research, and outreach on Canada. The Consortium offers the largest, most comprehensive group of courses on Canada in the country, covering the Arts & Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Professional Schools. At each university, the Canadian Studies program is integrated into the baccalaureate degree. All three universities are committed to French language training, with ME holding FLAS Fellowships and also organizing summer intensive language institutes. Graduate programs in Canadian Studies are strong at ME, especially in History, French, and Quaternary Science. At VT, there are M.A. programs in French, History, and Geology, and an M.A.T. in French. The quality of faculty and staff sources is among the highest in the U.S., with several recognized leaders of Canadian Studies. Collectively, the library resources are superb, and provide material for both undergraduate and graduate teaching and research. Unique Canadian collections have been acquired at all three universities, and are shared nationally and internationally through on-line catalogues, the Web, and interlibrary loan. The Consortium programs are nationally recognized for outreach in Canadian Studies, particularly to 2 and 4 year colleges and universities, government, business, media, and schools. French language training for students and teachers is an important part of this outreach effort.

The grant request for \$246,000 per annum is to sustain and further develop the Northeast NRC on Canada. The funds will be used for faculty and staff salaries, curriculum development, faculty development, library acquisitions, supplies, outreach institutes, visiting speakers, conferences, and language immersion programs. Among new initiatives are joint development of Web-based courses and curriculum materials, electronic database subscriptions, outreach institutes, and sponsorship of special conference sessions and journal issues. The intended audience for the programs are undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, government, business, media, and school teachers. Evaluation criteria are in place to measure the effectiveness of these programs, and help maintain the Consortium's leading role in Canadian Studies in the U.S.

University of Washington and Western Washington University Canadian Studies Center

The Canadian Studies joint center comprising the University of Washington (UW) and Western Washington University (WWU) was formed in 1988. It links the Canadian Studies Center in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at UW with the Center for Canadian-American Studies at WWU. The joint center is advantaged by the two universities' strategic location 80 miles apart on a route of intensifying Canada-U.S. integration, and within easy driving distance of Vancouver, B.C., Canada's third largest city and the location of two of Canada's most prestigious universities—the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University.

The mission of the joint center is to respond to the challenges and demands of the region and nation for knowledge and understanding of Canadian affairs. To this end, the center aims to strengthen and expand undergraduate and graduate instruction, professional teacher training and to organize timely activities pertaining to business, cultural and civic communities.

The joint center collectively offers 195 courses (excluding basic French), 65 of which contain 100% Canadian content and 110 affiliated faculty. Faculty commitment is seen in the fact that of the 110 affiliated faculty, 87 are tenured or in tenure-track positions. At each institution, majors and minors in Canadian Studies are offered. The depth of the resource base for Canadian Studies is found in the UW's world-class library system, in which Canadian Studies holdings are the largest in the western United States, and two Canadian Studies endowed chairs based at Western Washington University—the Distinguished Professor of Canadian Culture and the G. Robert Ross Distinguished Professorship of Canada-U.S. Business and Economic Relations. Just as the rich resources of the UW library systems are shared with WWU, the expertise and intellectual stimulus of the endowed chairs at WWU benefit the UW program, especially with the joint center's collaborative outreach projects to teachers, businesses, media and non-profit communities. As well as sharing faculty and speakers between both universities, the center publishes a joint newsletter and offers a small number of joint courses using narrow-casting TV technology to link classrooms at UW and WWU.

Enhancement activities include actions taken by the UW administration to mount a fundraising campaign (that UW President Richard McCormick officially launched at a ceremony at the Canadian Consul's residence in April 1999) that will endow a visiting chair of Canadian Studies in perpetuity. At WWU, the Center is developing a nonfederally-funded resource center for transboundary environmental teaching, research and policy to complement the excellent teaching and research focused on Canada-U.S. environmental policy. Both institutions are using federal funds as seed money to substantially expand teaching and research in the areas of history and sociology. A further enrichment activity is the development of a new comparative major in North American environmental policy.

The major program goals, described in sections 3 and 10 of the narrative, will be realized through the joint center's special expertise in five focal areas: 1) Economic Integration; 2) Canada-U.S. Borderlands; 3) Environmental Resources and Policy; 4) Pacific Rim and Migration; and 5) Aboriginal Culture. This approach to program development capitalizes on the complementary strengths of the joint center and offers a coherent integrated plan for effectively responding to the challenges facing Canadian Studies in the 21st century.

